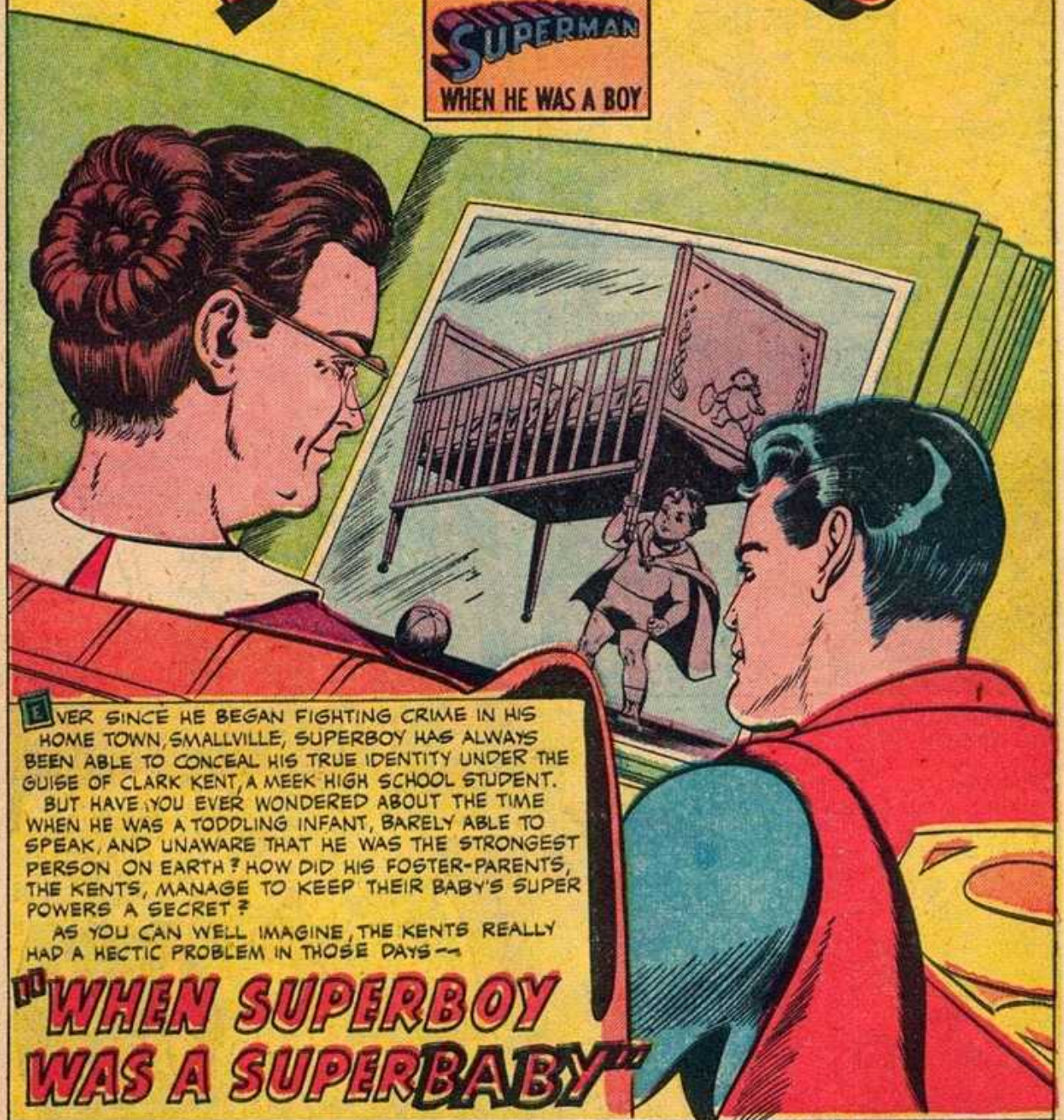
SUPERBOY
52 BIG PAGES
SUPERBOY
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS
MAY JUNE NO.8
10¢
YUM, YUM— I SEE YOU'VE GOT BLUEBERRY PIE FOR DESSERT, MOTHER!
OH, DEAR! WITH YOUR X-RAY VISION; I CAN'T KEEP ANY SURPRISES FROM YOU, SON!

SUPERBOY

The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY



EVER SINCE HE BEGAN FIGHTING CRIME IN HIS HOME TOWN, SMALLVILLE, SUPERBOY HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO CONCEAL HIS TRUE IDENTITY UNDER THE GUISE OF CLARK KENT, A MEEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

BUT HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT THE TIME WHEN HE WAS A TODDLING INFANT, BARELY ABLE TO SPEAK, AND UNAWARE THAT HE WAS THE STRONGEST PERSON ON EARTH? HOW DID HIS FOSTER-PARENTS, THE KENTS, MANAGE TO KEEP THEIR BABY'S SUPER POWERS A SECRET?

AS YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE, THE KENTS REALLY HAD A HECTIC PROBLEM IN THOSE DAYS—

"WHEN SUPERBOY WAS A SUPERBABY"

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ONE AFTERNOON, AS SUPERBOY IS MAKING HIS REGULAR PATROL OF SMALLVILLE..
THE BENSON GANG. THEY'RE MAKING A GETAWAY!
YIPE! IT'S SUPERBOY! AND HE'S GAINING ON US!
LOOK OUT-- THE CAR'S GOING OFF THE ROAD!
BUT THE CROOK'S WARNING COMES TOO LATE...
THEY CRASHED INTO THAT GIRDER--AND THE CITY WATER-TOWER'S GOING TO TOPPLE OVER!
WITH A BURST OF SUPER-SPEED AND STRENGTH, SUPERBOY ACTS TO AVERT A TRAGEDY--
THIS WRECKED CAR CAN REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY DID, IF--
WHAT A NEWS PICTURE FOR THE PAPER!
--I CAN SQUEEZE IT INTO A SOLID STEEL SUPPORT!
THANKS, SUPERBOY! YOU SAVED OUR WATER SUPPLY WITH THAT MAKE-SHIFT GIRDER!
YOU'RE WELCOME! I'VE GOT TO HURRY BACK TO TOWN BEFORE THEY NOTICE MY ABSENCE THERE!
POLICE
NOW TO SWITCH TO CLARK KENT, AND LEISURELY STROLL BACK TO SCHOOL..

THAT EVENING, SUPERBOY'S FOSTER-PARENTS, THE KENTS, ARE RELAXING AT HOME --
HERE'S THE WOOD FOR THE FIREPLACE!
CLARK, LOOK AT WHAT I'VE CUT OUT OF TONIGHT'S PAPER!

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER AROUND WHEN I STOPPED THOSE CROOKS!
I CUT IT OUT TO PUT IN YOUR PICTURE-ALBUM!
PERBOY'S NEWEST FEA

SUPERBOY'S ALBUM! AS ITS PAGES TURN BACKWARD, THE BOY OF STEEL LOOKS FARTHER AND FARTHER BACK INTO HIS ACTION-FILLED PAST!
I'VE SAVED ALL YOUR PICTURES FOR YEARS! REMEMBER THIS EXHIBITION YOU GAVE AT THE SMALLVILLE FAIR?

"AND THIS WAS THE TIME YOU RESCUED THAT BURNING EXCURSION BOAT!"

"WITH YOUR SUPER EYESIGHT, YOU DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE ARGUMENT THAT DAY YOU WERE GUEST UMPIRE FOR SMALLVILLE REFORMATORY!"

"AND THE SUMMER YOU VISITED THAT WESTERN RANCH GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO BE A REAL COWBOY!"
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"BUT THIS IS A PICTURE I CHERISH--THE FIRST DAY YOU PUT ON THE SUPERBOY COSTUME! IT PERMITTED YOU TO USE YOUR SUPER-POWERS AGAINST CRIME WITHOUT ANYBODY SUSPECTING YOUR IDENTITY!"

WHAT A HARD TIME WE HAD WHEN YOU WERE A SMALL BOY, KEEPING PEOPLE FROM FINDING OUT THAT YOU WERE A SUPERBOY!

BUT THERE'S ONE MORE PICTURE--THE FIRST. LET'S SEE IT, TOO!

"THAT'S WHEN YOU ALMOST **DID** GIVE US AWAY--WHEN YOU WERE JUST A BABY!"

"IT BEGAN ON THAT DAY WHEN JONATHAN AND I FIRST FOUND YOU!"

LOOK! A CYLINDER FROM OUT OF THE SKY! IT LOOKS SO QUEER...LIKE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!

WE'D BETTER SEE WHAT'S IN IT!

A BABY! HE'LL DIE WITH NOBODY TO CARE FOR HIM.. LET'S ADOPT HIM AND CALL HIM CLARK!

WE GOT HIM OUT OF THAT THING JUST IN TIME!

"WE SOON FOUND OUT THAT YOU WEREN'T LIKE OTHER BABIES! YOU WERE STRONGER THAN ANY BABY EVER BORN!

I NEVER SAW A BABY SO POWERFUL. HE KEEPS BURSTING OUT OF EVEN THE STRONGEST CLOTHES!

THOSE RED AND BLUE BLANKETS HE WAS WRAPPED IN SEEM TO BE THE ONLY MATERIAL HE CAN'T TEAR--WHY NOT MAKE HIM SOME CLOTHES OUT OF THEM?

"SO WE DID! BECAUSE YOU KEPT THROWING OFF YOUR BLANKET, I FASTENED PART OF IT TO YOUR SHIRT COLLAR!

"THE SUPER-STRONG CLOTH WORE WELL! AND WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR YOUR SUPERBOY COSTUME.
HE FOLDS HIS ARMS TO KEEP HIS BALANCE!
I NEVER SAW A BABY STAND SO FIRM OR WALK SO WELL, AT HIS AGE!

"WHEN YOU WERE ONLY A YEAR OLD, WE FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE A BABY WITH STRANGE POWERS!
DADDY TALK! DADDY TALK!
NO, CHILD, YOU CAN'T HEAR DADDY TALKING -- HE WON'T BE HOME FOR HOURS YET!

"BUT WHAT A SURPRISE I GOT!"
DADDY!
I CAME HOME EARLY TODAY! AND I WAS TALKING TO MR. SMITH IN HIS STORE A LITTLE WHILE AGO, AND HE SAID---
WHY, LITTLE CLARK HEARD YOU TALKING, A MILE AWAY! HE MUST HAVE SUPER-HEARING!

"THAT SAME NIGHT, WE HAD EVIDENCE OF ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR SUPER-POWERS! IT ALL STARTED WHEN DAD LIT A MATCH---"
BRIGHT! PRETTY!
BABIES ARE ALWAYS ATTRACTED TO BRIGHT THINGS, AND OUR BOY IS NO EXCEPTION!

NO--- BAD!
HE HAS TO LEARN THAT FIRE IS DANGEROUS!
BAD!

"AT THAT MOMENT, A WIRE SHORT-CIRCUITED INSIDE THE HOUSE AND STARTED A FIRE! WE DIDN'T SUSPECT IT. BUT YOU--"
BAD! BAD!
BAD!
HE SURE LEARNS WORDS QUICKLY! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IS ATTRACTING HIM NOW?
BETTER SEE WHAT HE'S DOING, JONATHAN!
NO-- BAD!
HE BLEW OUT THE WHOLE FIRE THE WAY HE SAW ME BLOW OUT A MATCH! WHAT LUNG-POWER HE'S GOT!
AND THE ONLY WAY HE COULD HAVE SEEN THE FIRE WAS THROUGH THE WALL --JONATHAN, HE'S GOT X-RAY VISION!
"AND YOUR SUPER-STRENGTH! WE SOON FOUND OUT HOW TREMENDOUS THAT WAS!
CLARK, PUT THAT DOWN-- I'LL GET YOUR MILK FOR YOU!
MILK!
"AND HOW HARD YOUR STRENGTH WAS ON TOYS!"
HE SQUEEZED THAT IRON TOY RAILWAY CAR SO HARD, IT'S TURNED TO RED-HOT MOLTEN IRON!
OH DEAR, HE'LL BE BADLY BURNED!

"BUT WHEN WE RUSHED TO SAVE YOUR HANDS, WE DISCOVERED STILL ANOTHER OF YOUR SUPER-POWERS!"
HIS HANDS AREN'T EVEN BLISTERED!
WHY, HE'S ABSOLUTELY INVULNERABLE!

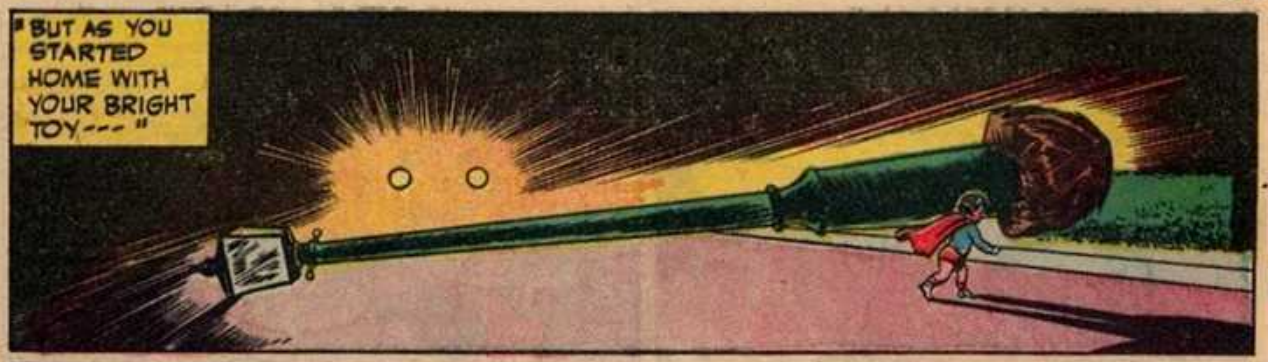
"IT WAS THEN THAT WE REALIZED WHAT A GRAVE PROBLEM WE HAD ON OUR HANDS--"
JONATHAN, HIS SUPER-POWERS COULD BE DANGEROUS! IF THE WORLD KNEW, THE WRONG PEOPLE MIGHT TRY TO USE HIM FOR EVIL ENDS!
YES, WE MUST KEEP HIS STRENGTH A SECRET--- TO THE WORLD HE MUST BE JUST CLARK KENT--
--NO, NO, CLARK, YOU CAN'T HAVE MY WATCH!
BRIGHT! PRETTY!

"IT WAS YOUR BABY LOVE FOR BRIGHT OBJECTS THAT FINALLY THREATENED TO BETRAY THE FACT YOU WERE A SUPER-BABY! ONE NIGHT WE LEFT YOU WITH A BABY-SITTER..."
WE'LL BE BACK BY ELEVEN, ALICE...TAKE GOOD CARE OF LITTLE CLARK--
I WON'T LEAVE HIM, MRS. KENT!

"AFTER A WHILE SHE DOZED OFF--AND THROUGH THE WALL, WITH X-RAY VISION, YOU SAW SOMETHING BRIGHT--
BRIGHT! PRETTY!

"ATTRACTED BY THE BRIGHT STREET LIGHT, YOU TODDLED OUT OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT AWAKENING HER."
BRIGHT! TAKE IT HOME!

PRETTY!


"BUT AS YOU STARTED HOME WITH YOUR BRIGHT TOY---"

"--A CAR OF CRIMINALS, FLEEING FROM THE POLICE, CAME STREAKING TOWARD YOU!"
LOOK OUT! DON'T RUN INTO THAT POLE ACROSS THE STREET!
YOU'RE SWERVING INTO THAT TREE! WATCH IT!
SCREEEECH
WHREEEEEEEE

MARTY, OUR CAR'S WRECKED--AND THERE COME THE COPS! IF THEY CATCH US WITH THAT DIAMOND LOOT ON US, WE'RE SUNK!
GRAB THAT BABY! HE'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

"WITH YOU AS A HOSTAGE, THEIR ESCAPE SEEMED CERTAIN!"
THEY CAN'T SHOOT AT US IF WE USE THIS BABY AS A SHIELD!
WAIT, MEN--DON'T SHOOT! THEY'VE GRABBED UP THE KENTS' BABY!

IN HERE, QUICK!
SURROUND THAT HOUSE!

EEK!
THE GIRL'S THE ONLY ONE HERE-- AND SHE'S FAINTED!

SHALL WE USE TEAR-GAS?
NO, THEY'VE GOT LITTLE CLARK IN THERE! WE CAN'T!
WE'VE GOT THEM STYMIED! WITH THIS BABY AS A HOSTAGE, WE CAN CRUISE OUT OF TOWN!
"BUT THE DIAMOND-THIEVES DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD A SUPER BABY! INNOCENTLY USING YOUR X-RAY VISION, YOU SAW--"
BRIGHT! PRETTY!
"--THEIR SPARKLING LOOT, AND GRABBED IT WITH SUPER-STRENGTH!"
HEY, THE KID GRABBED THE DIAMONDS RIGHT THROUGH MY COAT!
I CAN'T GET THE KID'S HAND OPEN! WHAT A GRIP HE'S GOT!
CAN'T OPEN A BABY'S HAND? YOU MUST BE GETTING SOFT! HERE, I'LL DO IT!
HOLY SMOKE! NONE OF US CAN DO IT! WHO-EVER HEARD OF A BABY WITH A GRIP LIKE THAT?
WE'VE GOT TO GET THOSE DIAMONDS AWAY FROM HIM SOME-HOW!

THAT BRAT GRABBED THE DIAMONDS BECAUSE THEY'RE BRIGHT! I'LL SHOW HIM MY PHONY RUBY-RING --- HE'LL GO FOR THAT AND LET GO OF THE DIAMONDS!

SEE THE PRETTY RING, BABY? BABY WANT THE NICE BRIGHT RING?
BRIGHT!

OUCH! THE KID'S CRUSHING MY FINGER! MAKE HIM LET GO!
HE HASN'T EVEN LET GO THE DIAMONDS IN HIS OTHER HAND YET!

WE CAN'T PRY HIM LOOSE FROM EITHER THE DIAMONDS OR YOUR FINGERS! --AND WE CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS!
WE'LL HAVE TO SPANK THOSE DIAMONDS OUT OF HIM!

"BUT STILL ANOTHER SURPRISE AWAITED THE CROOKS WHEN THEY TRIED SPANKING YOU!
OUCH! I NEARLY BROKE MY HAND SPANKING THAT KID, AND HE DIDN'T EVEN FEEL IT!
LISTEN! THE COPS! WHILE WE WERE FOOLING WITH THIS KID, THEY RUSHED THE HOUSE!

DON'T SHOOT, MEN-- YOU'LL HIT THE BABY!
THERE'S NOTHING TO KEEP ME FROM SHOOTING, COPPER!

THIS'LL SHOW YOU WE MEAN BUSINESS!
BRIGHT!

" ATTRACTED BY ITS BRIGHTNESS, YOU REACHED WITH SUPER-SPEED TO GRAB THE FLASH OF THE GUN!"
PRETTY!

"--AND YOUR HAND WAS OVER THE MUZZLE WHEN THE BULLET CAME OUT OF IT!"
WHY-- WHAT-- SOMETHING STOPPED THE BULLET!
GRAB 'EM, MEN! THEY'RE OFF GUARD!
WHACK!

"AND SO, WITHOUT REALIZING IT, YOU APPREHENDED YOUR FIRST GANG OF CRIMINALS!"
WE'LL TAKE 'EM IN NOW-- AND THIS DIAMOND LOOT ALONG WITH THEM!
LOOK, THE BABY WANTS TO PLAY WITH THE DIAMONDS! HE'S CRYING BECAUSE WE'RE TAKING THEM AWAY!
EE YOW!
BRIGHT

"SO LOUD WERE YOUR CRIES OF PROTEST, FATHER AND I HEARD YOU MANY BLOCKS AWAY--!"
EEE-YOW!
IT'S A FIRE-SIREN!
NO, IT'S A STEAM-WHISTLE!
NO, IT'S OUR SUPER-BABY!

" RUSHING HOME, WE GOT THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE POLICE... AND WE EXAMINED YOUR HAND FOR INJURY--"
A FLATTENED BULLET! BUT HIS HAND ISN'T HURT!
THE GUN MUST HAVE BEEN DEFECTIVE!
I GUESS SO-- THOUGH IT SEEMS QUEER, THE WAY IT ALL HAPPENED!

"AFTER THE POLICE LEFT..."
THEY SAID THE LAMP-POST HAD BEEN PULLED OUT, AND STOPPED THE CRIMINALS' CAR! JONATHAN, DO YOU THINK--?
YES, IT MUST HAVE BEEN LITTLE CLARK WHO PULLED IT OUT! YOU KNOW HOW FOND HE IS OF BRIGHT THINGS!
BUT WE CAN USE THIS EXPERIENCE TO IMPRESS SOMETHING ON HIS MIND FOR ALL HIS FUTURE LIFE!
PUT IT BACK, CLARK! PUT IT BACK!
PUT BACK!
"AND YOU DID JUST AS YOUR FATHER SAID--"
GOOD BOY, CLARK! NOW I KNOW HE'LL NEVER USE HIS SUPER-POWERS TO DESTROY! THE REWARD-MONEY FOR CAPTURING THOSE CRIMINALS WILL REPAIR ANY REMAINING DAMAGE TO THE LAMP!
"AND LATER--"
HE'S A SUPER-BABY, JONATHAN--AND OURS!
AND SOME DAY SOON, HE'LL GROW INTO A SUPERBOY!
AND YOU **HAVE** GROWN INTO A SUPERBOY--AS WE EXPECTED, CLARK! AND SOME DAY, I KNOW, YOU WILL GROW UP INTO A SUPER**MAN**!
SUPERBOY'S ALBUM
The End

NOW FOR THE ADVENTURES OF *SUPERMAN*, READ **ACTION COMICS, SUPERMAN COMICS, AND WORLD'S FINEST COMICS**, NOW ON SALE.

LITTLE PETE
HENRY BOLTINOFF
NOW, PETE, PRACTISE YOUR PIANO LESSON!
—AND WHEN YOU FINISH, GO NEXT DOOR AND PLAY WITH THE NEW BOY WHO MOVED IN!
LATER..
WELL, PETE, DID YOU MEET THE NICE LITTLE BOY NEXT DOOR?
SLAM
I SURE DID, MOM! AND I THINK YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE PRACTICAL AND CUT OUT MY PIANO LESSONS-
WHAT I NEED IS BOXING LESSONS!
THE END

ADVERTISEMENT

SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
HE'S BACK AGAIN! WHO? THAT TUBBY ROBBER OF HOBBIES--HUMPTY DUMPTY! THIS TIME, THE CRIME COLLECTOR CONCENTRATES ON FLAGS! AND SOON THERE'S A RED FLAG FOR DANGER WHEN HUMPTY DUMPTY STRIKES, BUT THERE'S ALSO A GREEN FLAG THAT IS THE GO-AHEAD SIGNAL FOR SUPERBOY TO FOIL AND FURL...
"The FLAGS OF CRIME!"
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NO SOONER IS HUMPTY DUMPTY, THE NOTORIOUS HOBBY ROBBER, ON HIS WAY TO PRISON, THAN THE ENTIRE NATION BUZZES WITH A NEW WARNING. . .

HE JUMPED FROM A PRISON TRAIN!...

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR

WANTED

ROBERT HOBB, ARD

ALIAS THE HOBBY ROBBER, ALIAS HUMPTY DUMPTY...

CALLING ALL CARS! HUMPTY DUMPTY HAS ESCAPED!...

WHILE IN A BIZARRE UNDERGROUND TOWER...

HA! HA! SUPERBOY WILL *NEVER* FIND ME HERE! EVEN *HE* DOESN'T KNOW THAT ONE OF MY HOBBIES IS BUILDING DUPLICATE HIDEOUTS IN VARIOUS PLACES!

ENTERING ONE OF HIS FABULOUS HOBBY ROOMS, THE IMPISH MOUNTEBANK CONFRONTS A HUGE COLLECTION OF KEYS!

THIS KEY I PICK-POCKETED FROM A TRAFFIC COP FITS THESE HANDCUFFS PERFECTLY! I KNEW MY KEY-COLLECTING HOBBY WOULD PAY OFF SOME DAY!

CHANGING TO HIS FAMOUS COSTUME, THE SELF-STYLED NABOB OF HOBBIES GLOATS OVER HIS COLLECTORS' ITEMS . . .

HERE ARE MY OLD AUTOMOBILES! MOVIE COMPANIES WOULD PAY A FORTUNE TO USE THESE AS PROPS! BUT THEY'RE *MINE...ALL MINE!*

AH! MY FLAGS OF ALL AGES AND LANDS! THIS IS THE ONE WASHINGTON'S TROOPS WAVED SO DEFIANTLY DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION! AND HERE'S THE BANNER CARRIED INTO BATTLE BY KING RICHARD THE LION-HEARTED!

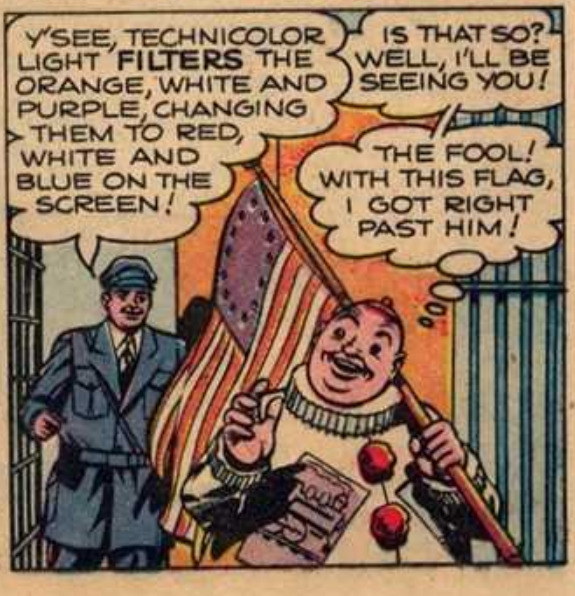
BUT WHAT'S THIS?... EMPTY PLACES ON THE WALL! I MUST STEAL NEW RELICS! FLAGS, I SUMMON YOU TO BATTLE! BEAT THE WAR DRUM, SHOUT THE BATTLE CRY-- HUMPTY DUMPTY IS ON THE MARCH AGAIN!

MY CRIME PARADE SHALL START WITH AN AMERICAN FLAG--OF ORANGE, WHITE AND PURPLE!
BUT AN AMERICAN FLAG IS RED, WHITE AND BLUE! WHAT IS HUMPTY DUMPTY UP TO? CAN YOU GUESS?

NEXT MORNING, CLARK (SUPERBOY) KENT AND HIS FATHER INSPECT THEIR GENERAL STORE...
GOSH, DAD, THAT LEAKY WATER PIPE BURST DURING THE NIGHT! LUCKY WE HAD NO PERISHABLE FOODS DOWN HERE!
BUT LOOK... ALL THE LABELS SOAKED OFF THE TIN CANS! HOW CAN WE TELL WHAT'S INSIDE THEM NOW?

SWIFTLY MOPPING THE BASEMENT, CLARK FINDS HIS OWN SOLUTION TO THE TIN CAN QUESTION!
THIS ONE HAS SPINACH... AND HERE'S ANOTHER CAN OF CORN!
HA, HA! NOT EVERY FATHER IS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A SON WITH X-RAY VISION!

MEANWHILE, AT THE STUDIO GATE OF MAGNUM PICTURES...
I'M IN THAT COSTUME PICTURE! THE DIRECTOR SENT ME OUT FOR THIS FLAG! CRAZY COLORS FOR AN AMERICAN FLAG, EH?
THAT'S THE TYPE MADE ESPECIALLY FOR TECHNICOLOR MOVIES!
GATE G
NO ADMITTANCE
3


Y'SEE, TECHNICOLOR LIGHT FILTERS THE ORANGE, WHITE AND PURPLE, CHANGING THEM TO RED, WHITE AND BLUE ON THE SCREEN!
IS THAT SO? WELL, I'LL BE SEEING YOU!
THE FOOL! WITH THIS FLAG, I GOT RIGHT PAST HIM!

CAUTIOUSLY, THE ELFIN THIEF APPROACHES A STARLET WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED BY A RADIO NEWSCASTER . . .
IN YOUR ROLE OF "CLEOPATRA", DO YOU SMUGGLE YOURSELF INTO CAESAR'S CAMP BY WRAPPING YOURSELF IN THAT ROMAN BANNER?
YES! AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS BANNER IS A PRICELESS HISTORICAL RELIC! SMALLVILLE MUSEUM LOANED IT TO US ESPECIALLY FOR THAT SCENE!
AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, THE RADIO IS PLAYING IN THE KENT GENERAL STORE... SUDDENLY. . .
PARDON ME FOR STEALING YOUR SCENE-- AND THAT BANNER!
THAT'S HUMPTY DUMPTY'S VOICE! SORRY, DAD, BUT THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERBOY!
EEE! A THIEF!
GO GET HIM, SON, BUT FAST! I'LL NEED YOU FOR MORE CHORES AROUND THE STORE!
ONE MIGHTY LEAP, AND THE INCREDIBLE SUPERBOY ARRIVES AT THE MOVIE LOT!
HOLD IT, PUDGY!
SUPERBOY! GO 'WAY! YOU'RE A PEST!
ABRUPTLY, HUMPTY DUMPTY LIGHTS WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DANGLING THREAD. . .
IT'S REALLY A FUSE! I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF TREATING THIS CLOTH WITH EXPLOSIVE CHEMICALS!
CLEOPATRA'S BARGE
AIMING AT A STUDIO WATER SET, HE FLINGS THE DEADLY CLOTH!
GREAT SCOTT! THAT WATER WILL FLOOD THE SET AND RUIN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT!
OH-OH! THIS JOB COMES FIRST... HUMPTY DUMPTY LATER!
QUICK AS LIGHTNING, THE BOY OF STEEL FLIES INTO ACTION . . .
LUCKILY, STUDIOS ALWAYS HAVE A BIG SUPPLY OF QUICK-DRYING PLASTER ON HAND!
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PUNCHING HOLES IN THE BURLAP BAGS, SUPERBOY FLASHES OVER THE FLOWING WATER...
INSTANTLY, THE PLASTER DAMS THE FLOOD AND BINDS THE WATERY EXPANSE INTO THICK CEMENT!
THERE! THE STUDIO CAN HACK THE CEMENT LOOSE, AND DISPOSE OF THE CHUNKS OF SOLID "WATER"! NOW, FOR HUMPTY DUMPTY!
CRACK
SLAM
CRACK
BUT THE HOBBY ROBBER IS ALREADY RIDING THE SKYWAY TRAIL ON HIS FANTASTIC STEED... A ROCKET-POWERED HOBBY HORSE!
NO ONE REALIZED I HAD YOU HIDDEN IN THAT TRUCK, MY FAITHFUL MOUNT! HA, HA... IN ALL THE CONFUSION, THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME SNEAKING OFF WITH THE FLAG! NOW... UP--UP--AND AWA-AAY!
MEANWHILE, SUPERBOY HAS A NEW PROBLEM ON HIS HANDS...
YOU WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL BOY! YOU SAVED US FROM CATASTROPHE!
GOSH... PLEASE...
OH, WELL... CHALK UP ONE ESCAPE FOR HUMPTY DUMPTY!
LATER...
CAESAR, YOUR BANNER HOLDS AN HONORED PLACE IN MY HOBBY HALL! IT LED ME TO VICTORY OVER SUPERBOY AS IT ONCE LED YOUR TROOPS OVER THE EGYPTIANS!
HMM... SUPERBOY'S HOME TOWN, SMALLVILLE, IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TOMORROW! HOW I'D LIKE TO HUMILIATE HIM THERE! AND I WILL... WITH THIS CHECKERED FLAG!

NEXT MORNING, ALL OF SMALLVILLE IS OUT TO CELEBRATE THE TOWN'S FIFTIETH BIRTH-DAY, BY "TURNING BACK THE CLOCK" 50 YEARS...

SMALLVILLE 50 YEARS YOUNG

EVEN CLARK KENT AND OTHER TOWN YOUNGSTERS WEAR COSTUMES SPANNING THE YEARS!

HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL SUITS?

THEY'RE AS CORNY AS MY "LATEST" BATHING SUIT! TEE! HEE! BUT LOOK AT CLARK, DRESSED AS AN OLD-TIME POLICEMAN! HA! HA!

THEN COMES THE FEATURE OF THE CELEBRATION.... RE-ENACTMENT OF THE FAMOUS RACE BETWEEN THE "TOM THUMB" LOCOMOTIVE AND A HORSE-DRAWN CAR...

ALL SET FOR THE RACE, MAYOR!

FINE, M'BOY! BEFORE YOU START, I WANT TO MAKE A LITTLE SPEECH!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! IN HONOR OF THIS OCCASION, I'VE TAKEN OUR **FIRST TOWN FLAG** FROM THE CITY HALL! OUR FLAG MAY BE TATTERED, BUT SHE'S STILL FLYING!

SMALLVILLE

HOORAY! RAY! YIPPEE!

AS THE RIVAL VEHICLES LINE UP, THE STARTER RAISES HIS CHECKERED FLAG, SIGNAL OF ALL RACING CONTESTS. BUT LOOK WHO'S THE STARTER!

GET SET... GET READY...

HA! HA! NOBODY SAW ME KNOCK OUT THE REGULAR STARTER AND PUT ON *HIS DISGUISE!*

DOWN DIPS THE CHECKERED FLAG, AND INSTANTLY A CRACKLING SHEET OF ELECTRICITY FLARES HIGH!

WHAT...??

UH.. CAN'T SEE...

OHHH.... MY EYES!

HA! HA! I PREPARED FOR THIS BY MAKING THE "STARTING LINE" AN ELECTRIC CABLE!

LEAVE IT TO Binky

"HOME, SWEET HOME!"

HIYA, LUCY! GOSH, THAT'S SWEET OF YOU SETTING OUT THOSE COOKIES FOR MY PARTY TONIGHT.
YOUR PARTY? THESE ARE FOR THE MEMBERS OF MY SCHOOL CLUB WHO ARE MEETING HERE TONIGHT.
WHAT? BUT I SPOKE TO MOTHER LAST WEEK ABOUT HAVING MY CROWD OVER TONIGHT, AND SHE SAID IT WAS OKAY!
I'M SORRY, BINKY, BUT MOTHER MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY MEETING. YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL YOUR PARTY OFF!
OH-OH! THERE'S GONNA BE FIREWORKS ANY MINUTE!
MOM! POP!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, CHILDREN, BEFORE YOU START ANY FURTHER BICKERING, LET'S DISCUSS THIS SENSIBLY, SAME AS YOU DO AT YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS.
YES, AND AT HOME, TOO. FATHER AND I DISCUSS FAMILY MATTERS WITH YOU, DON'T WE?
WELL, I DON'T SEE ANY WAY OUT.
LET'S TRY... DOES YOUR MEETING HAVE TO TAKE UP THE WHOLE EVENING?
NO-O... WE'RE STARTING AT 8 - AND I SUPPOSE WE COULD BE THROUGH BY 9:30.
THEN, PERHAPS BINKY COULD POSTPONE HIS PARTY UNTIL THEN, AND YOU COULD DO SOMETHING AFTERWARDS..
SURE! I'LL ORGANIZE A TREASURE HUNT THAT'LL TAKE US AWAY FROM THE HOUSE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER. HOW'S THAT?
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME! WE'LL GO ROLLER-SKATING AFTER OUR MEETING.
PERFECT! THEN NOBODY WILL BE IN THE WAY OF YOUR GROUP, LUCY -- AND BINKY'S CROWD CAN TAKE OVER AFTERWARDS! I HAVE ENOUGH COOKIES FOR EVERYBODY!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! IT'S WONDERFUL WHAT A LITTLE DISCUSSION WILL DO!
NOW I CAN HAVE SOME PEACE AROUND HERE! I'M ALL FOR MORE DEMOCRACY AT HOME!
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WHEE! BOTH VEHICLES ARE RUNNING WILD! NOW EVERYONE WILL BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PASSENGERS WHILE I COLLECT THAT RARE TOWN FLAG!
BUT THE HOBBY ROBBER IS SPOTTED... BY CLARK KENT!
HUMPTY DUMPTY! THIS LOOKED LIKE ONE OF HIS TRICKS! BUT HOW CAN I SWITCH TO SUPER-BOY WITH MY FRIENDS WATCHING ME? I MUST DO SOMETHING...QUICKLY!
UNOBSERVED, CLARK'S POWERFUL FINGERS EASILY SNAP THE STEEL CABLE ANCHORING THE OLD-FASHIONED GAS BALLOON...
AND AS THE BAG RISES, HE DEFTLY TANGLES ONE FOOT IN A TRAILING ROPE, AND...
HE-ELP! THE CABLE SNAPPED!
OH... HE'S CAUGHT! OHHH!
HIGHER AND HIGHER THE BALLOON RISES... AND WHEN IT REACHES A DENSE CLOUD...
I'VE RIGGED A PASSABLE DUMMY OF "CLARK" WITH PADDING TAKEN FROM THE BASKET LINING!
THERE GOES THE RUNAWAY HORSE! HUMPTY DUMPTY'S FLAG STARTED THIS TROUBLE... I'LL STOP PART OF IT WITH ANOTHER FLAG...THAT GOLF FLAG!

LIKE A JAVELIN, THE FLAG'S STEEL SHAFT HISSES THROUGH THE FLUTTERING REINS, PINNING THEM TO A TELEGRAPH POLE!
AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SHOUT WHOA!
OH-OH! THAT BANK IS TOO STEEP FOR THE TOM THUMB! IT'S STARTING TO TIP OVER TOWARD THOSE ROCKS!
HELP! WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
INSTANTLY, THE BOY OF STEEL PULVERIZES GIGANTIC BOULDERS WITH HIS MIGHTY HANDS!
FIRST I'LL MASH THESE BOULDERS INTO FINE SAND!
THEN, WITH ONE POWERFUL PUFF...
NOT A SECOND TOO SOON! WHEN THEY LAND IN THAT SAND DUNE, IT'LL FEEL LIKE A MATTRESS!
NOW I CAN GO AFTER THAT EGG-SHAPED CLOWN!
UH-OH! TROUBLE COMING MY WAY...IN THE PERSON OF SUPERBOY!
ABRUPTLY, THE CUNNING COLLECTOR MANEUVERS HIS HOBBY HORSE, AND...
HE'S SET THE BAG AFIRE...KNOWING I'LL HAVE TO SAVE WHAT HE THINKS IS CLARK KENT! AND THE CROWD BELOW STILL THINKS IT'S THE REAL CLARK!

THUS, IRONICALLY, SUPERBOY IS FORCED TO RESCUE A DUMMY SO THAT HIS OWN SECRET IDENTITY WILL BE PROTECTED!
HUMPTY DUMPTY GOT AWAY, BUT SUPERBOY SAVED CLARK!
NATURALLY! YOU DIDN'T EXPECT SUPERBOY TO LET CLARK DIE, DID YOU?

AN HOUR LATER....
AH ME, I'D HOPED SUPERBOY COULD RESCUE OUR TOWN FLAG, TOO! IT WAS A SYMBOL TO OUR TOWN... A SYMBOL...
THAT FLAG MEANS A LOT TO THE PEOPLE OF SMALLVILLE! I'VE GOT TO GET IT BACK! I MUST!

NEXT MORNING, A SMUG FIGURE GLIDES FROM THE SKIES, AND . . .
THERE! MY OWN VICTORY FLAG WILL SHOW MY COMPLETE CONTEMPT FOR SUPERBOY! HA! HA!

MOMENTS LATER, AS IRATE, INDIGNANT TOWNSPEOPLE GATHER 'ROUND IT...
I'D LIKE TO STICK A PIN INTO THAT BAG O'WIND!
HE'S LUCKY! IF SUPERBOY HADN'T RESCUED THAT CLARK KENT BOY...
ODD! MY MICRO-SCOPIC VISION REVEALS TRACES OF NEWSPAPER PRINT ON THE BLANK SIDE OF THIS FLAG!

HMM...THIS HOME-MADE FLAG HAS LETTERING YOU GLUE ON WITH A HOT IRON! HUMPTY DUMPTY MUST'VE HAD A NEWSPAPER UNDER THE FLAG, AND THE IRON MUST'VE PRESSED TRACES OF NEWS-PRINT INTO THE CLOTH!
9

AS HE GAZES AT THE NATURALLY-REVERSED PRINT, CLARK SUDDENLY NOTICES AN INTERESTING NEWS STORY...
"MILLIONAIRE JOHN BONDY IS RETURNING ON HIS YACHT FROM A BUYING SPREE IN EUROPE. AMONG HIS MOST VALUABLE PURCHASES IS THE BLACK FLAG USED BY CAPTAIN KIDD, THE PIRATE." HMM! HUMPTY DUMPTY WOULDN'T IGNORE THAT!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A FEW MILES OUT OF PORT, THE WILY LITTLE BUFFOON IS ALREADY AT WORK!
HERE COMES BONDY'S YACHT, DUMPTY!
OKAY, WHITEY, START SIGNALING! REMEMBER, YOU MEN CAN HAVE WHATEVER TREASURE HE'S GOT! ALL I WANT IS THAT FLAG!
WHAT A STUPE! ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR A PIECE O' CLOTH!
SOON AFTER, ABOARD THE MILLIONAIRE'S YACHT . . .
SIR, I'M GETTING AN URGENT SEMAPHORE MESSAGE! THERE'S A SICK MAN ON THAT LAUNCH AHEAD!
THEN CHANGE OUR COURSE, CAPTAIN . . . WE'LL GIVE THEM SOME HELP!
AND THE HOBBY ROBBER'S SEMAPHORE FLAGS LEAD THEM INTO A TRAP!
STICK 'EM UP!
HA! HA! LUCKY I BROUGHT ALONG ASSISTANTS WITH GUNS, TO HANDLE THE YACHT'S CREW!
IMPRISONING THE SURPRISED CREW, HUMPTY DUMPTY THEN HOISTS A CURIOUS BANNER...
WHAT DOES THAT FLAG MEAN?
IT WILL KEEP OTHER YACHTS AWAY! IT'S AN AQUATIC "DO NOT DISTURB" SIGN, COMMONLY CALLED A SLUMBER FLAG!
THEN AS THE DROLL DESPERADO CLAIMS HIS BOOTY. . .
HOW FITTING I SHOULD COMMIT PIRACY TO STEAL CAPTAIN KIDD'S FLAG OF PIRACY!
DID SOMEONE PAGE A KID?
YIPE, IT'S THAT KID... SUPERBOY!
ONE MOVE AND HE GETS IT!
NOW, SUPERBOY, GIVE ME YOUR WORD YOU'LL LEAVE AND NEVER TALK TO THE LAW ABOUT THIS PIRACY! IT'S YOUR WORD OR — BONDY'S LIFE!
I...I... ALL RIGHT! YOU HAVE MY WORD!
10

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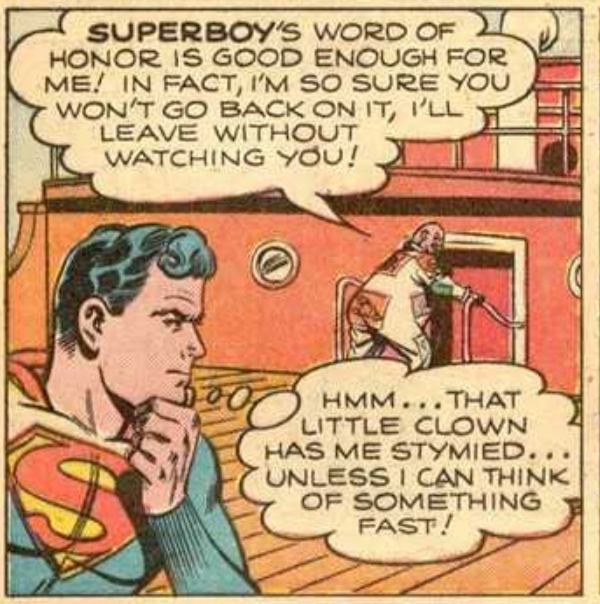
MOVING AT BLURRED SPEED, THE BOY OF THE FUTURE ADOPTS A NEW STRATEGY. . .
I PROMISED NOT TO *TALK* TO THE LAW, BUT I CAN "SPEAK" *WITHOUT TALKING* BY USING THESE **INTERNATIONAL CODE PENNANTS!**

BUT BEFORE THE MESSAGE CAN BE SEEN BY ANY PASSING SHIP, HUMPTY DUMPTY RE-APPEARS, AND . . .
"CALL POLICE". . . VERY CLEVER, BUT IT WON'T WORK, MY BOY! NOW I WANT YOUR **WORD OF HONOR** THAT YOU WILL NOT *CONTACT* OR *SIGNAL* THE LAW IN **ANY WAY WHATSOEVER!**
(GULP) ALL RIGHT. . . MY WORD OF HONOR!


SUPERBOY'S WORD OF HONOR IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME! IN FACT, I'M SO SURE YOU WON'T GO BACK ON IT, I'LL LEAVE WITHOUT WATCHING YOU!
HMM. . . THAT LITTLE CLOWN HAS ME STYMIED. . . UNLESS I CAN THINK OF SOMETHING FAST!

SUDDENLY, WITH SUPER-SPEED, THE **BOY OF STEEL** GRABS ANOTHER ODD FLAG, AND. . .
I PROMISED I WOULDN'T SIGNAL THE LAW, AND I WON'T. . . EVEN THOUGH I'M *HOISTING THIS FLAG!*
BUT **SUPERBOY IS** UNFURLING A **SIGNAL** FLAG! HOW CAN HE DO THIS WITHOUT GOING BACK ON HIS WORD OF HONOR?

SOMETIME LATER. . .
LOOK! BOATS ALL AROUND US! WE'RE SURROUNDED!
THEN **SUPERBOY DID** CALL THE LAW! I NEVER THOUGHT **SUPERBOY** WOULD GO BACK ON HIS WORD OF HONOR! WELL. . . I'M LEAVING!
11

A HISS OF FLAME, AND **HUMPTY DUMPTY** ROCKETS SKY HIGH!
NO SIGN OF **SUPERBOY**! I'VE ESCAPED HIM AGAIN! HA! HA! BY THE TIME HE NOTICES I'M MISSING, I'LL BE FAR, FAR AWAY!

BUT THE CUNNING HOBBY-ROBBER HAS NOT RECKONED WITH **SUPERBOY**'S *SUPER-EYESIGHT*...

I MADE SURE NOT TO BE AROUND WHEN **HUMPTY DUMPTY** TOOK OFF! WITH MY *MICROSCOPIC VISION* I CAN REACH HIS NEW HIDEOUT BY FOLLOWING THE **TRAIL OF BURNED GUNPOWDER LEFT BY HIS HOBBY HORSE'S ROCKET!**

SECONDS LATER, MANY MILES AWAY...

NOW TO HANG MY NEW TROPHY OVER... **OOF!**

YOU'VE TRIPPED OVER A UNION FLAG... JUST AS BOOTH DID WHEN HE SHOT LINCOLN!

A GALE...IN THIS ROOM? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! **OW!** ALL THE FLAGS ARE SLAPPING ME! OW!...YI!... OW!...

SOON, THE HOBBY ROBBER IS COLLECTED--BY HIS OWN COLLECTION!

SUPERBOY! YOU *LIED* WHEN YOU GAVE ME YOUR WORD OF HONOR! YOU CALLED THE POLICE!

YOU'RE WRONG...I *DID* KEEP MY WORD!

FROM THE HOBBY ROBBER'S OWN COLLECTION, **SUPERBOY** TAKES DOWN THE FLAG THAT STARTED ALL THE TROUBLE...

WHEN YOU LEFT ME, I HOISTED THIS KIND OF FLAG TO THE MAST!

THE **"HOSPITALITY FLAG"!**

12

RIGHT! A LONELY SKIPPER HOISTS THIS FLAG AS A SIGNAL FOR HIS NAUTICAL NEIGHBORS TO SHARE HIS FOOD AND DRINK!

THEN THOSE OTHER BOATS WEREN'T COPS...THEY WERE FRIENDLY PEOPLE! YOU BEAT ME AFTER ALL, WITH A **FLAG!**

SOON AFTER, HEADLINE NEWS!

Smallville☆ Star

SUPERBOY DUMPS HUMPTY DUMPTY IN JAIL

HUMPTY DUMPTY'S DEFEAT IS HERALDED WITH A HEADLINE...AND IT IS IRONIC THAT NEWSPAPER SLANG FOR A HEADLINE IS A "BANNER" OR **"FLAG"!!**

The End.

SHARE MORE ADVENTURES WITH **SUPERBOY** IN **ADVENTURE COMICS** - NOW ON SALE!

Ready to Go

LONG before a train is made up at the railroad terminal and long before the conductor calls "All aboard!" men are at work in shops and yards and offices making everything ready for the trip.

In the coach yard, cars are cleaned inside and out. Shopmen check them for safety. Switch engines put the cars together in the right order and shove them in on the station tracks beside the platform. Almost as soon as they are placed, hand trucks loaded with sacks of mail for the mail car, packages for the express car, and trunks and bags for the baggage car are pulled alongside.

While these things are being loaded into the proper "head-end" cars at the front of the train, a hostler (he gets his name from the days of horses) brings the engine in from the roundhouse, where shopmen have groomed it for the run. It has oil and grease in the lubricators, sand in the sand box, and the necessary fuel and water aboard. It is ready for the trip.

When all is ready, the train crew takes charge: the engineer and fireman, conductor, flagman, mail clerks, express messenger, and baggage master. If the train carries Pullman cars and a diner, there will be the Pullman conductor and porter, and the dining car steward, cooks and waiters.

Just before train time, tower signalmen set the levers to work electric switches that line up the right tracks to take the train through the yards and out on the main line. As the conductor calls "All aboard!" the last passengers get on; and he signals the engineer to start. The bell rings. On a steam locomotive, the engineer gently opens the throttle to let steam from the boiler rush into the cylinders of the locomotive. The steam pushes the pistons, the pistons move the piston rods, the rods turn the driving wheels, and the train moves off with the exhaust steam barking out the smokestack "C—H—O—O! C—H—O—O! C-H-O-O-! CHOO! CHOO!" faster and faster as the train gathers speed.

The electric locomotive gets its power from overhead wires, or from a "third rail" supplied with electricity from a power station. The Diesel-electric carries its own power station—an engine somewhat like an automobile engine drives generators which make the electricity used to turn the wheels.

Time is so important in the movement of trains that every care is taken to insure that all trainmen shall carry accurate watches,

regularly inspected and checked against standard clocks. The whole system of standard time zones by which the people of North America live was started by an agreement among the railroads to operate on standard "railroad time."

Radio is also used by the railroads. With the radio-telephone the engineer can talk to the conductor or to station agents along the line, and dispatchers can talk to train crews on the road. In switch yards, a portable walkie-talkie type of radio is sometimes used. Radio also helps the railroads operate their ferries and tugboats.

The most important business of a railroad, usually, is hauling freight. Cars are loaded with freight of all sorts at all sorts of places. These cars are picked up by the "local" or "way" freight or by switch engines, brought to the railroad yards and there put together in long trains to be pulled by big freight engines.

Various sorts of freight require different kinds of cars. A long time ago, cowboys used to drive cattle long distances to market. Now they are shipped by train. Cars with slat sides are used for cattle, sheep, hogs, or other live stock. The stock are usually loaded through pens and chutes and must be unloaded every day for rest and feeding at stockyards.

"Open-top" cars are used to haul such things as coal, ore, stone, gravel, and sand. Some open-top cars are "hoppers" with bottoms which can be dropped down to let the loads fall out. Others are "gondolas," sometimes called "gons" for short, which have lower sides and solid flat bottoms. Their loads must be shoveled out by hand or with cranes having big "clamshell" buckets.

Sometimes, iron or steel is carried in these cars, and for unloading it, there are cranes with big magnets which will pick up tons of metal at one time, swinging the load where it is wanted, and then drop it when the electricity is turned off. In some places, there are car dumping machines which can pick up a whole freight car, turn it upside down, and empty it just like emptying a toy sand bucket.

Tank cars, made of steel or aluminum, carry all sorts of liquids—oil, gasoline, acids, chemicals. They are loaded and unloaded by pumping the liquids through pipes.

Box cars carry all sorts of things which do not need special kinds of freight cars. There are more box cars than any other kind. When loaded with freight, the doors are shut tight and sealed with little metal strips. No one can get into the car without breaking one of these seals. Each seal is stamped with a number, and a record of it is kept.

Refrigerator cars are a special sort of insulated box car, with a bunker in each end, which can be filled with ice and salt, like an ice cream freezer, to keep the inside of the car cool. During cold weather in the North, little heating stoves may be set in these cars to keep the freight from freezing. They carry fresh meats, butter, eggs, milk, candy, and other things which can be spoiled by too much heat or too much cold. These refrigerator cars make it possible to have fresh fruits and vegetables in all parts of the country, even in winter.

Whenever a car is made empty, it is started back to or toward its "home" road, carrying a load if there is one to be carried in that direction. It may not get home for weeks. A car away from "home" is a "foreign" car, and while it is away, the roads on whose rails it is, pay car hire to the road owning it, whether it is loaded or empty, rolling or standing.

And through snow and rain, storm and flood, over mountains and plains, by day and by night, the trains run on.

DAFFY & DOODLE

DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I CAUGHT A THREE FOOT BASS, DAFFY?
THAT'S NOTHING! I WENT FISHING ONCE AND PULLED A LANTERN OUT OF THE WATER--
--AND IT WAS STILL BURNING!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT--THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
ALL RIGHT, THEN, YOU CUT TWO FEET OFF YOUR FISH--
--AND I'LL BLOW OUT THE LANTERN!

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Starring in Monogram Westerns

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A tight spot, but Johnny's six-shooter speaks first! Steady nerves call for Bazooka!

Made by the makers of TOPPS CHEWING GUM

SHORTY
OKAY, DAD, I'LL SHOVEL A PATH TO THE STREET!
HENRY BOLTINOFF
WHEW! THIS IS HARD WORK!
THE SNOW IS AT LEAST 20 INCHES DEEP. I'LL NEVER GET TO THE MOVIES ON TIME!
WHAT AN IDEA! AND IT'LL TAKE HALF THE TIME!
I HOPE MOM AND DAD DON'T MIND THIS KIND OF A PATH!
THE END

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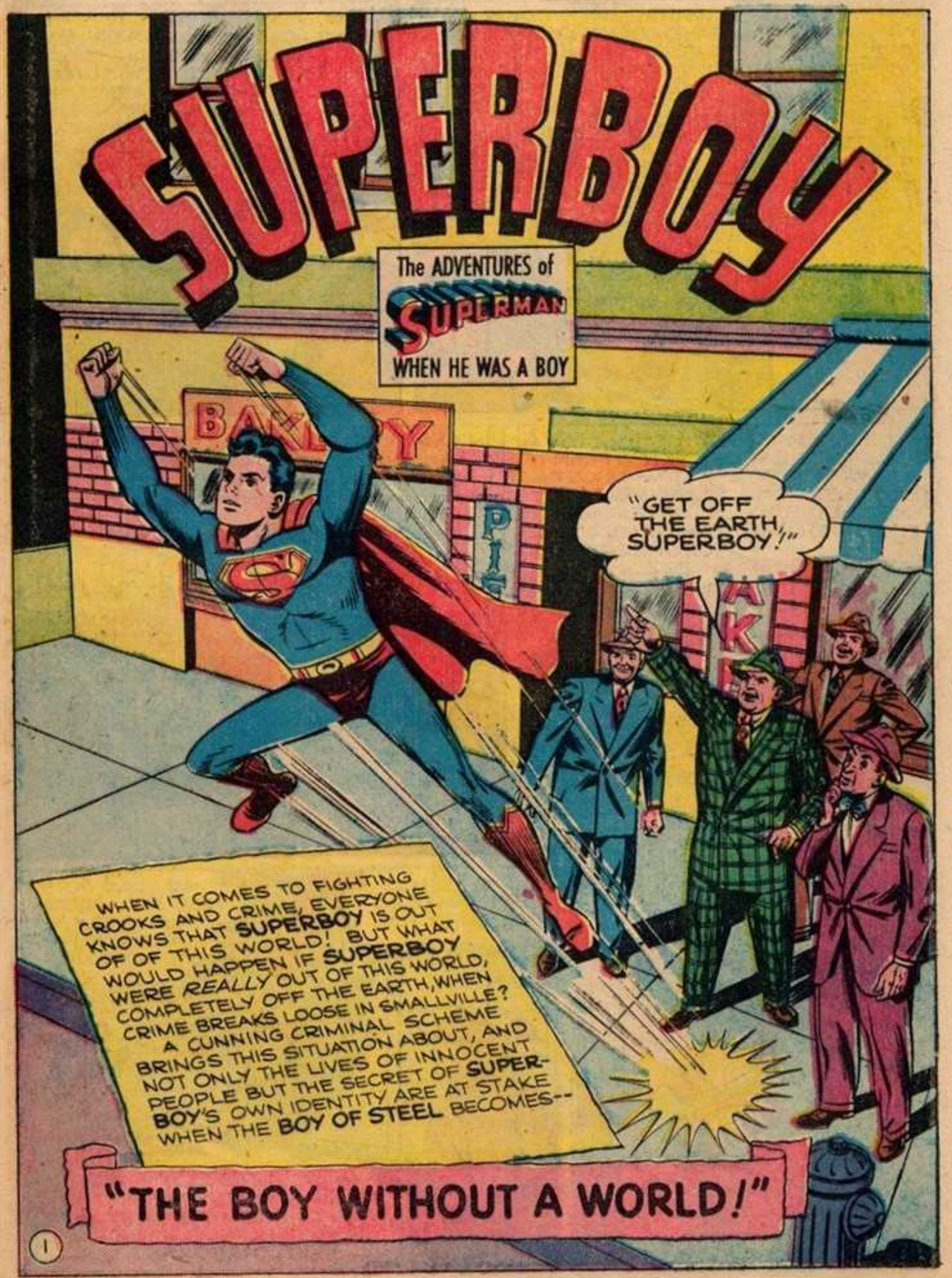
SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
"GET OFF THE EARTH, SUPERBOY!"
WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING CROOKS AND CRIME, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT SUPERBOY IS OUT OF OF THIS WORLD! BUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SUPERBOY WERE REALLY OUT OF THIS WORLD, COMPLETELY OFF THE EARTH, WHEN CRIME BREAKS LOOSE IN SMALLVILLE? A CUNNING CRIMINAL SCHEME BRINGS THIS SITUATION ABOUT, AND NOT ONLY THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE BUT THE SECRET OF SUPER-BOY'S OWN IDENTITY ARE AT STAKE WHEN THE BOY OF STEEL BECOMES--
"THE BOY WITHOUT A WORLD!"

ONE AFTERNOON IN METROPOLIS, "RUBY" DEXTER, CZAR OF CRIME, CALLS TOGETHER BIRDS OF PREY TO PLAN A NEW CAMPAIGN!
WHERE ARE WE GOING TO PULL OUR NEXT JOBS, RUBY?
THAT'S MY SURPRISE FOR YOU -- WE'RE GOING TO LOOT SMALLVILLE!
SMALLVILLE? ARE YOU CRAZY? THAT'S WHERE SUPERBOY LIVES!
THAT'S WHY IT'S EASY PICKINGS! PEOPLE THERE RELY ON SUPERBOY'S PRESENCE AND AREN'T AS CAREFUL AS THEY SHOULD BE -- THEY'LL BE A PUSHOVER FOR CRIME!
THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, WITH SUPERBOY THERE! I'M NOT GOING TO FOOL WITH HIM!
LISTEN! I'VE GOT A PLAN THAT'LL GET SUPERBOY OUT OF OUR WAY WHILE WE CLEAN UP THERE! BZZ... BZZ...
IN SMALLVILLE THE NEXT AFTERNOON, CLARK KENT STARTS HOME FROM SCHOOL -- AND GETS A SURPRISE!
I'M GLAD I HAVEN'T HAD TO BECOME SUPERBOY LATELY, FOR WITH EXAMINATIONS COMING UP I NEED TO STUDY AND --- BUT WHAT'S THAT?
NO ARGUMENT! YOU PEOPLE GET INTO THE VAN!
MOVING STORAGE
I SPOKE TOO SOON! WELL, AS SUPERBOY, I'LL SOON TEACH THOSE THUGS THAT SMALLVILLE IS UNHEALTHY FOR THEM!
2
HERE COMES SUPERBOY, AS WE EXPECTED!
WE HAVE A NICE JAIL HERE IN SMALLVILLE --- AND YOU'RE INVITED!
WAIT, SUPERBOY -- IF YOU TRY ANYTHING, YOU'LL DOOM THE FOUR INNOCENT PEOPLE INSIDE THIS LOCKED VAN!

IF I TURN THIS VALVE, POISON GAS STORED IN THE TANK WILL SEEP INTO THE VAN AND KILL OUR HOSTAGES! AND I'LL TURN IT UNLESS YOU OBEY ME!
I'LL HAVE TO GET THE HOSTAGES OUT FIRST, AND THEN DEAL WITH THIS CROOK!
BUT A CUNNING CRIME-LEADER HAS PREPARED FOR EVERYTHING!
DON'T TRY TO BREAK OPEN THE VAN OR TEAR THE GAS-TANK AWAY--THAT'LL AUTOMATICALLY RELEASE THE GAS!
MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS THAT HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH! I DAREN'T TRY TO RESCUE THOSE HOSTAGES--TO SAVE THEM, I'LL HAVE TO OBEY HIM!
MY ORDERS TO YOU ARE--GET CLEAR OFF THE EARTH FOR 24 HOURS! IF YOU DON'T, THESE HOSTAGES PERISH!
BUT I CAN'T JUST *FLOAT* IN THE SKY! I "FLY" THROUGH SPACE BY TAKING OFF FROM THE GROUND OR A BUILDING WITH A SUPER-STRONG PUSH!
IT'S UP TO YOU HOW YOU DO IT, BUT STAY OFF THE EARTH 24 HOURS OR THOSE PEOPLE PAY THE PENALTY!
ALL RIGHT--I'LL HAVE TO DO IT! I GIVE MY WORD TO STAY COMPLETELY OFF EARTH THAT LONG!
IN 24 HOURS WE CAN CLEAN UP HERE--BUT WHEN **SUPERBOY** COMES BACK AFTER THAT TIME, HE'LL TRACK US DOWN!
YOU SEE, THE BOY WHO MISSES SCHOOL TOMORROW WILL BE **SUPERBOY**! FOR IT'S EXAMINATION DAY AND NO OTHER BOY WILL BE ABSENT!
NOT IF WE KNOW HIS SECRET IDENTITY THEN AND THREATEN TO EXPOSE HIM! AND THIS GIVES US A WAY TO FIND OUT HIS IDENTITY!
MY SUPER-HEARING CAUGHT THAT, AND IT MAKES THINGS WORSE! IF I MISS SCHOOL TOMORROW THEY'LL KNOW I'M **SUPERBOY**--- AND I'VE PROMISED TO STAY OFF THE EARTH!
3

HOW CAN SUPERBOY APPEAR AT SCHOOL AS CLARK KENT, WHEN HE HAS PROMISED TO STAY OFF THE EARTH FOR 24 HOURS? YET HE MUST, OR BE EXPOSED!
I'VE GOT TO STAY OVER SMALLVILLE TO WATCH THOSE CROOKS--I CAN TREAD AIR LIKE TREADING WATER, BUT AT SUPER-SPEED!
THAT GETS SUPER-BOY OUT OF THE WAY! NOW TO AMBUSH THAT PAYROLL THAT'S ARRIVING TODAY!

THE CAR WITH THAT FACTORY PAYROLL WILL BE ALONG SOON! BE READY!
THEY'RE WAITING FOR SOME CAR, BUT WHY? I'D BETTER USE X-RAY VISION TO FIND OUT!

USING HIS X-RAY VISION ON EVERY CAR THAT COMES ALONG THE ROAD...
A PAYROLL CAR! THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE WAITING TO AMBUSH! AND I CAN'T GO DOWN TO STOP THEM! I MUST STAY OFF THE EARTH!

THE BOY OF STEEL NOW SWIMS IN AIR AT HIGH SPEED--HIS SUPER-SWIFT STROKES ENABLING HIM TO MOVE IN AIR AS A SWIMMER DOES IN WATER!
THIS PLAN IS MY ONLY WAY TO STOP THAT CRIME!
IF I GULP UP A SUPER-LUNGFUL OF THE MOIST AIR ABOVE THIS LAKE----

----AND THEN EXHALE THE MOIST AIR IN A CURVING TRAIL UP IN THIS COLDER AIR-----
4

IT WILL CREATE A HUGE AND BRILLIANT RAINBOW!

MOVING STORAGE
MY EYES! I CAN'T SEE--THAT RAINBOW DAZZLES ME! FUNNY IT CAME WHEN THERE WASN'T ANY RAIN!
THE PAYROLL CAR IS GOING BY WITHOUT THEIR KNOWING IT, DAZZLED AS THEY ARE!
MINUTES LATER...
WE'VE LOST OUR CHANCE--THE PAYROLL CAR HAS PASSED!
THAT BLASTED RAINBOW DID IT!
WE CAN STILL GET THAT PAYROLL OUT OF THE FACTORY SAFE TONIGHT!
I THINK I CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO STOP THEM WITHOUT TOUCHING THE EARTH—BUT HOW CAN I APPEAR IN SCHOOL TOMORROW AS CLARK KENT?
SOON...
THERE'LL ONLY BE A WATCHMAN OR TWO--AND THAT FACTORY SAFE WILL BE EASY!
HMM...HOW CAN I STOP THIS JOB WITHOUT DESCENDING? I'VE GOT AN IDEA—I'LL SCARE THEM—
MOVING HIS HANDS WITH SUPER-SPEED, SUPERBOY CREATES A VACUUM ABOVE HIM SO THAT AIR-PRESSURE HURLS HIM HIGHER AND HIGHER!
FOR THE FIRST STEP IN MY PLAN I'LL NEED SOME METEORS! UP—UP—AND AWAY INTO THE STRATOSPHERE!
5

SECONDS LATER, THE BOY OF STEEL COLLECTS FALLING METEORITES LIKE SO MANY BASEBALLS . . .
THIS IS MORE FUN THAN A BALL GAME! BUT THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH-- NOW TO DIVE DOWN ON THAT FACTORY BEFORE THEY ENTER!
THE FRICTION CAUSED BY SPEEDING THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE IS MAKING THE METEORS RED-HOT! LUCKY I'M INVULNERABLE, OR I'D HAVE BURNED FINGERS!
PRESENTLY, THE CRIMINALS ON EARTH ARE TERRIFIED BY WHAT SEEMS TO BE A MENACING COMET . . .
LOOK, IT'S A COMET COMING DOWN ON US!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
FACTORY
AS SCARED THUGS FLEE . . .
I'D BETTER THROW THIS "COMET" I MADE OUT OF THE RED-HOT METEORS INTO AN ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH--THEN IT'LL NEVER FALL AND HURT ANY-ONE!
6
THAT COMET DIDN'T FALL AFTER ALL! BUT IT ROUSED PEOPLE, SO WE DAREN'T PULL THAT JOB NOW!
I WONDER IF THAT COMET WAS JUST ACCIDENTAL? THE RAINBOW FIRST, NOW THIS---
FACTORY

SUPERBOY CAN'T COME DOWN TO EARTH, BUT MAYBE HE'S BEHIND THESE THINGS ANYWAY! I'LL FIND OUT!

NEXT DAY, SUPERBOY IS STILL ON WATCH AND STILL WORRIED BY HIS GREAT PROBLEM!
SO FAR I'VE PREVENTED THEIR CRIMES, BUT HOW CAN I APPEAR IN SCHOOL TODAY? IF I'M NOT THERE, THEY'LL KNOW CLARK KENT IS SUPERBOY! SHOULD I BREAK MY WORD? NO, I CAN'T!

THIS BANK WILL BE A CINCH TO KNOCK OFF---IT'S A SLACK HOUR AND THERE'S NOBODY AROUND!
BANK
I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT! HMM... THAT DUSTY FIELD DOWN THE STREET WILL HELP!

SPINNING AT SUPER-SPEED, THE BOY OF STEEL CREATES AN AIR-WHIRL THAT SUCKS UP DUST...

...AND CREATES A REALISTIC-LOOKING TORNADO!
MEATS
IT'S A TWISTER! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

LATER...
THAT DUST-STORM STOPPED US COLD-- WE THOUGHT IT WAS A TORNADO!
SUPERBOY CAUSED THAT! I STAYED BACK TO WATCH AND SAW HIM! THE BRAT IS QUEERING OUR JOBS EVEN THOUGH HE IS KEEPING OFF THE EARTH!

I'LL STOP HIS INTERFERENCE! WE'LL GET THE GOODS ON HIS SECRET IDENTITY RIGHT NOW-- BY FINDING OUT WHAT BOY ISN'T AT SCHOOL TODAY!
I HEARD THAT! AND I'VE GOT TO PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING TO THE SCHOOL!

ROCKETING SWIFTLY UP TO THE STRATOSPHERE IN ANOTHER VACUUM-PROPELLED LEAP...
I'LL NEED PLENTY OF THIS BITTERLY COLD AIR, AND MY LUNGS CAN HOLD MORE THAN AN AIR-COMPRESSOR!

THEN, SWOOPING DOWNWARD AGAIN, SUPERBOY EXHALES THE ICY AIR IN A CONCENTRATED BLAST!
I'M FREEZING ALL OF A SUDDEN-- IT'S DROPPED FAR DOWN BELOW ZERO!
AND THE TRUCK'S MOTOR IS FROZEN-- IT WON'T RUN!

SUDDENLY, SUPERBOY USES HIS SUPER-LOUD VOICE TO THWART THE CROOKS...
THAT TRUCK HAS INNOCENT PEOPLE LOCKED UP INSIDE!
IT'S THE BRAT AGAIN! HE'S GIVING US AWAY FROM UP IN THE AIR!
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--SURRENDER-- OR I'LL SHOOT!
IF I OPEN THIS VALVE, IT'LL RELEASE POISON GAS ON OUR HOSTAGES INSIDE!
MOVING
PAGE
WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON THAT! WE'LL HAVE TO LET THEM GO!

ATTENTION, POLICE! I FROZE THE GAS SOLID, SO IT CAN'T RUSH IN ON THE PRISONERS!
MOVING STORAGE
HE DID IT-- THAT BLAST OF COLD AIR FROZE THE POISON GAS! WE'LL HAVE TO BEAT IT! GRAB A CAR!
AND WHILE THE POLICE OPEN THE VAN, THE CRIMINALS FLEE . . .
QUICK, OUT OF SMALLVILLE!
AS SUPERBOY FOLLOWS ABOVE, POWERLESS TO STOP THE CRIMINALS . . .
THE POLICE WILL SOON CATCH US ON THE ROADS, BUT WE CAN FORCE THAT ADVERTISING BLIMP'S PILOT TO GET US OUT OF HERE FAST!
ARE YOU CRAZY, BOSS ? ONCE WE'RE UP IN THE SKY OFF THE EARTH, SUPERBOY CAN GRAB US!
BUT THE CZAR OF CRIME CAN STILL PLAN CLEVERLY!
BY SHOVELLING EARTH INTO THE GONDOLA, SUPERBOY CAN'T TOUCH US WITHOUT BREAKING HIS WORD---FOR WE'LL BE STANDING ON EARTH!
AND THE BRAT IS WATCHING US! HE KNOWS WE'VE GOT HIM STYMIED THIS TIME!
MOMENTS LATER...
HAW, HAW, SUPERBOY IS GIVING UP--- HE KNOWS HE CAN'T TOUCH US!
I CAN'T TOUCH THEM WHILE THEY'RE STANDING ON EARTH IN THAT BLIMP, BUT MAYBE I CAN GET THEM TO LEAVE IT! THAT THUNDER-STORM OVER THERE WILL HELP--- THUNDERSTORMS MEAN HAIL!
I DON'T MIND HAIL HITTING ME, BUT THAT LIGHTNING TICKLES! ANYWAY, I'VE GOT ENOUGH HAILSTONES NOW!

THEN, WITH GIANT ICE-BALLS MADE OF HAILSTONES...
HE'S THROWING BIG ICE-BALLS DOWN AT US! THEY'LL RIP THIS BLIMP APART!
IT'S WISE TO ADVERTISE
I'M AIMING TO JUST MISS THE BLIMP, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT! FORTUNATELY, THE HAIL-BALLS WILL MELT FROM FRICTION BEFORE THEY HIT EARTH!
SCARED CROOKS HIT THE SILK!
THAT PILOT CAN GET KILLED IF HE WANTS TO-- WE'RE NOT STAYING!
I WAS HOPING THEY'D DO THAT!
YOU'RE NOT STANDING ON EARTH NOW, SO I'M NOT BREAKING MY WORD!
BUT TRAPPED, BAFFLED CRIMINALS TAKE THEIR REVENGE!
HERE ARE THE CROOKS, BY AIR-MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY! I CAN'T COME DOWN TO EARTH MYSELF, FOR A FEW HOURS YET!
POLICE
SUPERBOY GOT US, BUT I CAN FIX HIM FOR GOOD BY GIVING AWAY HIS IDENTITY! THE BOY WHO IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL TODAY IS SUPERBOY!
WHAT A STORY FOR OUR SMALLVILLE NEWSPAPER-- SUPERBOY'S REAL IDENTITY! I'M GOING TO SMALLVILLE HIGH AND FIND OUT WHO'S ABSENT!
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SOON, AT THE SCHOOL...
PRINCIPAL MARTIN, I WANT TO FIND OUT IF EVERY BOY IS AT SCHOOL TODAY-- A SPECIAL FEATURE FOR THE PAPER!
I'LL HAVE THE ROLL CALLED IN ALL THE ROOMS!

?

WHAT'S THIS? HAS **SUPERBOY** BROKEN HIS WORD AND COME DOWN TO EARTH BEFORE THE 24 HOURS WERE UP? FOR THE ANSWER, LET'S GO BACK IN TIME A LITTLE...

PLUNGING AT TERRIFIC SPEED ACROSS COUNTRY TO THE DESERT, SUPERBOY FINDS WHAT HE SEEKS--A SAND-STORM!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN COLLECT THE SAND I NEED, WITHOUT GOING DOWN TO EARTH! ON THE WAY BACK, I CAN---
11

THEN, WORKING AGAINST TIME AS HE TREADS AIR HIGH ABOVE THE SCHOOL...
THAT'S AN ACCURATE LIKENESS OF CLARK KENT I'VE SKETCHED ON EACH OF THE LENSES...

NEXT, THE BOY OF STEEL USED THE SUN AS A LANTERN AND PROJECTED CLARK KENT'S TWO-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE THROUGH THE SCHOOL-ROOM WINDOW ONTO THE WALL!
PRESENT!
SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM WILL MAKE MY VOICE SEEM TO COME FROM THE BACK OF THE ROOM WHERE CLARK'S IMAGE IS!

A DISAPPOINTED REPORTER RETURNS TO THE POLICE STATION!
YOUR TIP WAS A FAKE! EVERY BOY WAS IN SCHOOL TODAY!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SUPERBOY MUST BE ONE OF THOSE BOYS!
AW, SHUT UP--- YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS GOT US INTO THIS!

A FEW HOURS LATER!
WOW, AM I GLAD THE 24 HOURS ARE UP, AND I CAN TOUCH EARTH AGAIN! NOW TO CHANGE BACK TO CLARK KENT, FAST!

SOON...
CLARK, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR TEST OVER AGAIN. I MUST HAVE LOST YOUR EXAM PAPER.
YES, MA'AM!
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THE NEXT DAY...
CLASS, CLARK KENT SCORED THE HIGHEST MARK IN THE EXAM. THERE'S A BOY WHO ALWAYS HAS BOTH FEET ON THE GROUND!
SHE SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH!
The End